

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4278

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP, EAID (SHAIKH SULTAN OF SHARJAH)

SUBJECT : RULER OF SHARJAH'S VISIT TO US

REF: ABU DHABI 1139 AND PREVIOUS

1. IT HAS NOW APPEARED IN PRESS (GOVERNMENT OWNED AL-ITTIHAD) THAT SHAIKH SULTAN OF SHARJAH "IS EXPECTED TO MEET PRESIDENT FORD" DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S. DOES DEPT OR WHITE HOUSE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT

POSSIBILITY OF SUCH MEETING? WOULD APPRECIATE FOR OUR OWN BACKGROUND ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN GIVE US ON THIS.

2. CHARTER COMPANY, WHICH HAS LAID ON PRIVATE AIRCRAFT FOR SHAIKH SULTAN AND IS HIS HOST ON FLORIDA PORTION OF TRIP, IS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN

TO US. (1974 EDITION OF OIL AND GAS YEARBOOK SIMPLY LISTS ITS HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS WITH NO FURTHER INFORMATION.) WE HAVE HEARD SOME RESER-

VATIONS EXPRESSED ABOUT IT BY TWO LOCAL OIL COMPANY SOURCES. GIST OF COMMENT SEEMS TO BE THAT CHARTER DAZZLES PEOPLE WITH ITS FOOTWORK BUT THERE IS LITTLE SUBSTANCE BEHIND IT. IT WOULD BE PITY, OF COURSE

FOR SULTAN, WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH TO BRING REPUTABLE U.S. FIRMS INTO SHARJAH, TO FALL INTO CLUTCHES OF SUCH FIRM. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND DEPT. CAN GIVE US ON REPUTATION, INTEGRITY, ETC. OF CHARTER COMPANY AND ITS CHIEF, MR. MASON.

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3. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SHAIKH SULTAN'S TRIP

SCHEDULE MAD COME TO OUR ATTENTION:

(A) MAY 2, FOLLOWING ONE-DAY VISIT TO DOHA, SULTAN WILL SPEND 6 HOURS AT FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS GUEST OF AIRPORT AUTHORITY (SULTAN HAS SIGNED CONTRACT WITH FRANKFURT AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO OPERATE SHARJAH'S NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT);

(B) SATURDAY, MAY 8 SULTAN'S AIRCRAFT, PROCEEDING FROM HOUSTON TO NEW YORK, WILL MAKE BRIEF STOPOVER AT NASHVILLE AIRPORT WHERE MEETING WITH GOVERNOR RAY BLANTON OF TENNESSEE HAS BEEN ARRANGED;

(C) DAVID ROCKEFELLER IS GIVING LUNCHEON FOR SHAIKH SULTAN ON SUNDAY, MAY 9, IN NEW YORK;

(D) UPON LEAVING US, SULTAN AND PARTY ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO SPEND DAY AND HALF (MAY 11-12) IN BRUSSELS AS GUEST OF SIX CONSTRUCT COMPANY. MEETING HAS BEEN ARRANGED TO MEET BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER MORNING OF MAY 12.
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